

February 21, 2024**Testimony on SB 417****Election Administration - State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors Education, Energy, and the Environment****Position:** Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 417 which would require a yearly performance review of the state administrator and local boards of elections Directors. It would also improve current procedures and security protocols.

The State Administrator and local Election Directors play a vital role in our democracy – running free, fair, and accurate elections. They ensure to the best of their ability that every eligible citizen can vote and have their vote counted in each election and their performance should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are following the rule of the law.

Performance reviews provide an opportunity to identify areas of improvement and acknowledge the accomplishments. Regular performance reviews of Maryland election officials will ensure they have a working knowledge of all relevant state, federal, and local laws and that they carry out their duties. It ensures they fully understand changes that have been made to the law, especially at the local level, and that they are working as a nonpartisan resource to voters and lawmakers.

SB 417 would set the State Administrator and local Directors up for success while improving the security of the tools needed to run our elections. This legislation creates greater accountability and builds the public's confidence in our elections.

We urge a favorable report.